Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

--This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application serial no. 09/570,367 filed May 5, 1998 (now ~~allowed~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,338,851) which is a continuation of PCT/CA98/01038 filed November 6, 1998 (which designated the U.S.) which claims the benefit of U.S. serial no. 60/064,764 filed November 7, 1997 (now abandoned).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The inventor has cloned and sequenced the murine OX-2 gene. Accordingly, the invention also includes an isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding a murine OX-2 gene and having the sequence shown in Figure 7 and SEQ.ID.NO.:~~1~~22.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Preferably, the purified and isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention comprises (a) a nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ.ID.NO.:~~1~~22, wherein T can also be U; (b) nucleic acid sequences complementary to (a); (c) a fragment of (a) or (b) that is at least 15 bases, preferably 20 to 30 bases, and which will hybridize to (a) or (b) under stringent hybridization conditions; or (a) a nucleic acid molecule differing from any of the nucleic acids of (a) or (b) in codon sequences due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--An isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention which is DNA can also be isolated by selectively amplifying a nucleic acid encoding a novel protein of the invention using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods and cDNA or genomic DNA. It is possible to design synthetic oligonucleotide primers from the nucleic acid

molecules as shown in Figure 7 and SEQ.ID.NO.:~~1~~22 for use in PCR. A nucleic acid can be amplified from cDNA or genomic DNA using these oligonucleotide primers and standard PCR amplification techniques. The nucleic acid so amplified can be cloned into an appropriate vector and characterized by DNA sequence analysis. It will be appreciated that cDNA may be prepared from mRNA, by isolating total cellular mRNA by a variety of techniques, for example, by using the guanidinium-thiocyanate extraction procedure of Chirgwin et al., Biochemistry, 18, 5294-5299 (1979). cDNA is then synthesized from the mRNA using reverse transcriptase (for example, Moloney MLV reverse transcriptase available from Gibco/BRL, Bethesda, MD, or AMV reverse transcriptase available from Seikagaku America, Inc., St. Petersburg, FL).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of the invention may be inverted relative to its normal presentation for transcription to produce an antisense nucleic acid molecule. Preferably, an antisense sequence is constructed by inverting a region preceding the initiation codon or an unconserved region. In particular, the nucleic acid sequences contained in the nucleic acid molecules of the invention or a fragment thereof, preferably a nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 7 and SEQ.ID.NO.:~~1~~22 may be inverted relative to its normal presentation for transcription to produce antisense nucleic acid molecules.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The invention further provides a recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA nucleic acid molecule of the invention cloned into the expression vector in an antisense orientation. That is, the DNA molecule is operatively linked to a regulatory sequence in a manner which allows for expression, by transcription of the DNA molecule, of an RNA molecule which is antisense to a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotides as shown in Figure 7 and SEQ.ID.NO.:~~1~~22. Regulatory sequences

operatively linked to the antisense nucleic acid can be chosen which direct the continuous expression of the antisense RNA molecule.--